

Texas House of Representatives



Lyle Larson

State Representative - District 122

What's new in District 122

Team Larson experienced an auspicious start to the month of July. In the early morning of July 1st, the office complex in which our district office is located caught fire. Fortunately, firefighters were able to get the fire under control but many offices in the building sustained significant fire, smoke and water damage. We have not been able to use our district office since then and were asked to remove everything from the building. The landlord has indicated that we should be able to begin occupying our office again by the end of September, after the restoration process is complete. Though we are temporarily without a district office, we are still fully operational in our Capitol office and, as always, accessible by phone and email. We look forward to returning to the office and will be sure to let you know when we do!

Hope you're having a great summer and staying cool. We look forward to seeing you around District 122!

All Things Water

As part of our commitment to assist communities throughout the state in addressing their water needs in light of the 2011 drought - the worst one-year drought in Texas history - we have been traveling throughout the state visiting with various water leaders, river authorities, water utilities and groundwater conservation districts. Over the last few weeks, we have visited several entities, including: the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, the San Jacinto River Authority, the Sabine River Authority, the Lower Neches Valley Authority, the Upper Colorado River Authority, the Colorado River Municipal Water District, the City of Odessa, the South Plains Underground Water Conservation District, the High Plains Water Conservation District, the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, the Red River Authority and the Brazos River Authority. Each of these entities is working hard to balance the various demands for water, whether they are primarily agriculture, industry, or municipal. We look forward to continuing to work to assist them in their mission of providing our most precious natural resource to folks across Texas.

2012 Joint Primary Election Runoffs

Early voting for the primary election runoff is now underway and will continue on through this Friday, July 27. Election Day will take place on Tuesday, July 31. There are a lot of important elections that will likely be decided by very few Texans, so your vote is

extremely meaningful! The Republican ballot will include races for several seats, including: U.S. Senate, Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Supreme Court, State Senate District 25, and multiple Bexar County Precinct Chairman positions. The Democratic ballot will include races for: U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives (District 23), Bexar County Sheriff, Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector, Justice of the Peace, Constable and various Bexar County Precinct Chairman positions. If you haven't already voted what are you waiting for? Find out where to vote [here](#) or call (210) 335-VOTE. Who will you vote for in the runoff election?

Electing VIA Board Members

In an effort to ensure more accountability to voters in Bexar County on local transit issues, my office recently announced our intent to pursue legislation that would require that VIA board members be elected by the public, rather than appointed, as is currently required by law. Today, there are communities throughout the nation that elect their transit authority board members, such as the Denver Regional Transportation District. While the idea has been discussed locally in the past, the impetus for this approach deals specifically with the recently discussed concept of merging the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (ARMA) with the Advanced Transportation District (ATD) (VIA's board is also the ATD board). This idea has been discussed in the last several weeks, since the Bexar County Commissioners Court voted to roll the ARMA under their governance. The problem with this idea is that merging the ARMA with VIA/ATD would create a centralization of power, along with the ability to spend hundreds of millions of transit money, under an unelected board. Earlier this year, many of you read about the controversy surrounding the downtown streetcar project. With a total price tag of \$190 million - \$92 of which was diverted from Bexar County's portion of the ATD that legally should only be used for road construction - the streetcar project was approved and funded despite assurances to voters that this revenue source would never be spent on such a project when they approved the tax in 2004. I truly believe that elected officials will be more responsive and accountable to voters and will provide voters the opportunity to remove them from office if they refuse to be good stewards of our community's tax dollars. Please take a minute to read the San Antonio Express News article addressing the concept [here](#). What do you think about our legislation? Take a quick survey [here](#).

BexarMet Legislative Oversight Committee Update

The next meeting of the BexarMet Oversight Committee will take place August 2nd at 9:00 a.m. at Hollywood Park City Hall. At the meeting, the Committee will hear testimony from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and San Antonio Water System (SAWS) with the latest information on the integration process to merge the BexarMet system into SAWS. Additionally, the [BexarMet Integration Advisory Committee](#) will provide an update on their work over the last few months.

Health care in Texas - Visit to CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital

Yesterday, we had the opportunity to visit with the staff and several doctors at the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa hospital in downtown San Antonio. Many folks who have lived in San Antonio all of their lives recognize CHRISTUS Santa Rosa as THE children's hospital in San Antonio. It is wonderful to see the great work that Patrick Carrier and his staff are doing there, specifically with the \$135 million expansion of the children's hospital, while dealing with the various funding challenges associated with government uncertainty and as a nonprofit health care provider. Christus Santa Rosa has an admirable mission to provide health care to all who need it in our community and we look forward to continuing to work with them to help them achieve their mission.

In the News



Discussing Medicaid reimbursements with physicians prior to a pediatric cardiac surgery at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa

As always, please feel free to contact me if I may ever be of assistance to you by phone at (210) 402-5402 or by email at lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us.

Best,

Lyle Larson